

Remarks

In the Office Action mailed January 12, 2004:

1. Claims 1, 3 and 51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,198,749 (Hui);
2. Claims 4-25, 29-31, 33-37, 39-40 and 52-134 were allowed; and
3. Claims 41-45 and 47-50 were objected to.

I. Claims 129-134

The office action indicated that claims 129-134 were allowed. However, claims 129-134 depend from claim 1, which was rejected. Based on voicemail messages exchanged with the Examiner on January 28 and 29, 2004, Applicants now understand claims 129-134 to be *objected to*.

II. Selected Claims

1. Claims 1, 3, 41-45, 47-50, 51, 129-134

Claims 1, 3, 41-45, 47-50, 51 and 129-134 were amended to reverse the amendments made to them in response to the previous office action, mailed September 9, 2003.

Claims 1 and 51 were additionally amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 49, which was objected to; claims 1 and 51 are therefore now believed to be allowable.

Claim 49 was cancelled without prejudice, and claim 50 was amended to depend from claim 1 vice claim 49. Claims 3, 41-45, 47-48, 50 and 129-134 were further amended, as necessary, due to the amendments to claim 1.

Claim 47 was cancelled (see new claims 135-140 below).

2. Claims 4-15, 52-53, 123-128

Claims 127-128 were amended to depend from claim 126 vice claim 123.

3. New Claims 135-140

New claim 135 comprises the subject matter of previous claims 1 (which was rejected) and 47 (which was objected to). New claims 136-140 depend from claim 135.

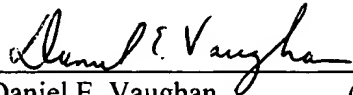
CONCLUSION

No new matter has been added with the preceding amendments. It is submitted that

the application is in suitable condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested. If prosecution of this application may be facilitated through a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's attorney identified below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 13, 2004

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